



CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

June 29, 2010

Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Tom Harkin
Representative Leonard Boswell
Representative Bruce Braley
Representative Steve King
Representative Tom Latham
Representative David Loebsack

Dear Sirs:

Over the past few months, I have written you regarding our concerns related to the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) and the need for congress to pass supplemental funding legislation. Today, I am writing again to urge your support and quick action on HR 4899, the *Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act* providing a much needed \$5.1 billion in disaster relief funding.

The DRF is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) fund for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation programs supporting response and recovery efforts after a disaster. Unfortunately, according to FEMA, the DRF is nearly depleted and the situation continues to degrade. The lack of funding for the DRF severely impacts our ability to provide disaster assistance to our citizens.

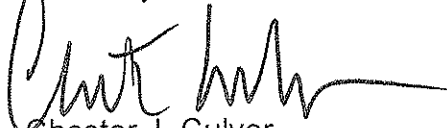
As of June 15, the nationwide backlog of DRF unfunded projects was in excess \$645 million. Unfortunately, Iowa projects represent the largest portion of this figure, totaling nearly \$204 million. Examples of projects not currently receiving funding include Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa, the Cedar Rapids Central Fire Station, Klondike Dam, and numerous other projects related to the repair of rural electric transmission systems. Of this backlog it is important to note that 23 unique projects account for \$164 million of the total backlog in Iowa.

Failure to act on HR 4899 jeopardizes and delays funding not only for efforts related to the recovery from the 2008 disaster but also for all other open disasters affecting the State. I recently made a request to the President for a major disaster declaration for Des Moines and Lee counties for damages sustained in a May severe weather event. Additionally, I anticipate requesting another declaration for damages sustained by many counties, resulting from storms occurring since June 1. Failure to act on the DRF means that much of

the funding necessary to recover from these disasters will also be significantly delayed or unavailable.

I strongly urge you to work with your leadership in ensuring the timely passage of HR 4899. Thank you for your continued support of Iowa's disaster recovery and mitigation efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Culver", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chester J. Culver
Governor of Iowa